

efforts to overcome serious human rights violations.

Loune Viaud is well deserving of this award because she has demonstrated leadership by expanding the delivery of health and social services to indigent Haitians suffering from HIV/AIDS and other debilitating diseases. She is a champion of Haiti's poor.

We all know that Haiti is one of the most impoverished nations in the Western Hemisphere. With over 300,000 people infected with HIV/AIDS out of its small population of 8 million, Haiti is in a crisis. Haiti is also facing a devastating AIDS orphan crisis with more than 163,000 children whose parents have died from AIDS complications. It is appalling that only one in every ten thousand Haitians has access to a physician, and tuberculosis remains one of the major causes of adult mortality. In fact, cases of tuberculosis and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in Haiti are more than ten times as high as those in other Latin American countries.

I want to praise Loune for rising to the challenge and for her significant work in Haiti. Her contributions are critical to the welfare of Haiti, as well as the welfare of our global community. Upon learning she had been selected as the Robert F. Kennedy award recipient, Loune Viaud stated, "For the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial to choose me, a humble foot soldier in the struggle for health and human rights, as the recipient of this prestigious award means more than I can say. For I am a Haitian, and the majority of Haitian people have always stood for equality. From 1791, when we fought against slavery to become the world's first independent republic born of a slave revolt, until 1990, when we again declared as a people our belief in social and economic rights as a human rights platform, the Haitians have struggled against long odds. Two hundred years of struggle, much of it in isolation even from those who profess a belief in human rights. Thank you for reminding us that we are never, in fact, really alone."

Loune maintains a clinic situated on the Central Plateau in rural Haiti. She offers free health care to the hundreds of thousands of people living in the region. Last year alone 56,000 people came to the clinic for medical help. In 2002 more than 100,000 people will be treated there.

The clinic, Zanmi Lasante, addresses the overall needs of the community surrounding it. It has special clinics for HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, a clinic for women (Proje Sante Fanm), a special center for children and an operating theatre. The complex also develops educational projects on HIV/AIDS sanitation and human rights.

Although the clinic is built in an underdeveloped region, Zanmi Lasante's treatment program is proof that diseases that are difficult to treat can be addressed in rural areas. The clinic, however, does not stop there. It's program treats the patients and empowers them to understand their rights. In 2001, Viaud was instrumental in developing a patient's Bill of Rights with a group of 60 HIV-positive patients. The patients view their health care as a basic human right, not charity.

Viaud's work attacks the symptoms of a greater and more persistent human rights violation, namely the right to healthcare. Article 19 of the Haitian Constitution states that the Government of Haiti is obliged to provide basic health care to its citizens. The Govern-

ment has stated that it would develop other health facilities, following Zanmi Lasante's model, in other parts of the country if it had the resources. I, along with other members of the CBC agree that the Haitian government should receive the funding already promised from the IDB Bank in 1996 for humanitarian assistance. In every sense, the disbursement of these loans can mean the difference between life and death.

I want to assure Loune and her partners in Haiti that their work does not go unrecognized. I stand with you in this effort. As African-Americans and as a members of the Congressional Black Caucus' Haiti Task Force, we have recognized the urgency in Haiti. Together, we have worked to introduce legislation that would decouple the humanitarian crisis in Haiti from the political impasse, which has further impeded Haiti's development since the 2000 elections. The resolutions was designed ensure that financial assistance from the international financial institutions can be disbursed to Haiti. You have my assurance that this work will continue. We must make it our mission to advance the development of a stronger and more meaningful partnership between the United States and Haiti.

In closing, I want to commend Loune Viaud for her work in Haiti. She is helping to build a strong foundation for the future development of Haiti. We must recognize the distress Haiti is in however, we must also look forward with hope. It is my honor to work with you and I look forward to our collective efforts to build a better relationship between the United States and Haiti. Loune, you are role model who is demonstrating today what can be possible tomorrow and into the future if we commit ourselves to a better brighter future for Haiti.

HONORING RYAN C. LEWIS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Ryan C. Lewis, who has demonstrated remarkable patriotism and immense love for the United States of America. Because of his desire to serve his fellow countrymen, Ryan joined the United States Army. He has composed a poem to articulate his feelings, and this written expression, which Ryan has so graciously shared, is a reflection of his heartfelt pride for our country. I feel that it is important to share this with my colleagues, as it is an inspiration to all those who hear it.

You asked me to show my patriotism
I think I already have, by flying the flag
In my room, by saying the pledge everyday
And when my eyes get watery and
The hair on my neck stands up when I hear
the
National Anthem. I've shown you by joining
The Army just to serve my country.
It runs in the family, this patriotism in my
heart,
This never ending pride, respect, honor, and
love
I have for my country, this sweet land of liberty.
You know for you are my sister and you are
my brother.

Mr. Speaker, Ryan's dedication to his country is an example for all Americans to follow,

and I thank him for his selfless contribution to this nation and its people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMMIGRATION BOND FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Immigration Bond Fairness Act of 2002, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for judicial review of detention and release determinations, and to provide a right to a bond hearing before an immigration judge to all aliens in removal and summary removal proceedings.

This bill would end the INS practice of indefinite detention of Haitians, even those seeking asylum, a racially discriminatory practice designed to send Haitian asylum seekers back home, regardless of the risk of persecution. It would ensure that every person in removal or summary removal proceedings would have a right to have custody, detention, and release determinations affecting them reviewed by an Immigration Judge.

Passing this bill would significantly improve the chance that asylum seekers will receive the legal help they need to present their best case for relief. It also would temper the problems that invariably arise when an agency is given complete, unreviewable discretion to make detention and release determinations.

Mr. Speaker, under this bill, everyone in removal or summary removal proceedings also would have the right to have an Immigration Judge, not an INS officer, decide whether it is appropriate to release them into the community on bond while their asylum claim is pending. None of us know what impact, if any, a judicial decision on bond claims will have on the frequency of release of asylum seekers into the community. Yet, surely, every person in detention deserves their day in court to make a case for release into the community on bond. That's just basic fairness.

Why should someone like Ernest Moise, who fled death threats in Haiti, and his teenage sons, remain locked up by the Miami INS office in March 2002, even though an Immigration Judge had granted him political asylum on February 22?

Mr. Speaker, historically, the INS practice was to release Haitian asylum seekers arriving in Miami into the community while their asylum claims were pending once they passed their interviews demonstrating a credible fear of persecution. Yet, in December 2001, after 187 Haitians were brought to shore in Miami for safety reasons from a Haitian boat that the Coast Guard intercepted at sea, the INS, apparently at the behest of the White House, secretly directed the Miami District INS office to detain Haitians even if they raised a credible fear of persecution if they are returned to Haiti.

It was only in March of this year when Miami immigration lawyers went to Federal court to challenge the INS's racially discriminatory policies against Haitians that the INS reluctantly acknowledged that the Miami INS office had adopted a policy of indefinite detention of all Haitians then or thereafter in INS